

The View from the Throne (Message # 48)

Revelation 22: 1-5

We have certainly been amazed and inspired as we've looked at all the splendor and glory of the New Jerusalem that God is preparing. Heaven is right now being prepared for those who belong to the Lord. It is beyond what we can even think or comprehend. [1 Cor.2:9 – But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.](#)

I know that I can't begin to understand it all, but I stand amazed at the love of God for sinful man that He would, not only save our souls, but also prepare such a glorious city for us to dwell in throughout the endless ages.

The first five verses of [Chp.22](#) are just a continuation of the description of God's holy city. Last week we got a glimpse of the city itself and tonight we catch a glimpse of some of the sights that we shall behold and enjoy as we move about in the New Jerusalem. Keep in mind that the Lord will dwell with us in that heavenly city. He will be there to never leave. With these thoughts in mind I want to consider heaven as it is seen from the throne of God. Let's take a few moments and think on: [The View from the Throne](#). With this view we will encounter three wonderful aspects of heaven. First there will be:

I. A Flowing River of Life (1) – [And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.](#) John continues his tour of the heavenly city and views the river of life. As we move through these verses, keep in mind that heaven will involve life abundantly. It is often said when things bring pleasure, "Now that's really living," but man has never known life as it will be experienced in heaven. What can we discover about this river of life?

A. The Source of the River – The river of life will flow directly from the throne of God. It is here that the Lord will sit as He occupies His throne and the water will flow from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

- It is by the mercies of God that we have the opportunity to enter the heavenly city. Man in himself is unworthy and defiled, but God made provision that we might be saved.

- As we enjoy the beauties of heaven and see the river of life flowing from the throne, it will remind us of the purity of the Lord and all He has done for us so that we might have this glorious opportunity. Jesus will be the focal point of heaven. He may be despised and rejected now, but there He will be worshipped and recognized as the King of glory!

- It isn't hard to recognize a tourist in big cities. They often walk around with their eyes fixed upon the towering buildings. Heaven will be much different. No doubt we'll enjoy the beauties, but Jesus will be our heart's desire!

B. The Serenity of the River – Just as all we've seen before, the river of life will be pure, clear as crystal. It will be absolutely free of any pollutants or filth. It will exceed the freshness of any mountain stream we can imagine.

- There is nothing more beautiful and relaxing than a clear stream running through a grassy meadow. Often times people enjoy sitting on their banks and listening to the soothing flow of the water.
- Imagine what the river of life will be. It will be the purest water we've ever seen, sparkling as it flows, reflecting the glory of the Lamb as He shines in brilliance! It will make its way through the glorious city bringing comfort to those who dwell there. You may want to find a seat on its bank, near the throne, and spend a few thousand years reflecting on the mercies of God!

C. The Substance of the River – This is the [river of the water of life](#), flowing from the throne of the Giver of life. There will be a continuous flow from the throne of God. This speaks of the eternal life that we've been given in Christ our Lord. I know that it is hard to comprehend, but heaven will never end; we shall never die; it will be just an eternal day with the Lord.

- Aren't you glad that you've tasted of the living water that Jesus gives? [John 4:14 – But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.](#) There was a day when I stood at an empty earthly well seeking to find what my soul needed. I rejoice for the day that Jesus came by and offered me that living water. The river of life will serve as a reminder of the life that we've been given in Christ our Lord. All who have tasted of the water that Jesus gives shall never die.

I. A Flowing River of Life (1)

II. A Flourishing Tree of Life (2) – [In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.](#) Here we find another detail of heaven that deals with life. John describes a Tree of Life in the midst of the street of gold and on each side of the river of life. Heaven is a place for the living in Christ. I look forward to living as I never have. Notice:

A. The Bounty of the Tree (2a) – This is no ordinary tree; in fact we've never seen anything like it before. It is a tree that bears twelve manner of fruit and it yields its abundance every month.

- I remember as a boy my grandfather doing some “grafting” on fruit trees so that they would bear two types of fruit, but I've never heard of one tree that bears 12 different kinds. You might ask if this will be a literal tree. Sure it will; God has placed the tree of life for the enjoyment of His people.
- We likely won't have to eat so that we can survive, but it will be for our pleasure. I don't know of many people who don't like some sort of fresh fruit. These will always be just right, not green or over-ripe, just heavenly delicious. Can you imagine the taste of a heavenly apple, cherry, or peach? I doubt there will be seeds, worms, or pits in them either. God's bounty will be wonderful!

B. The Benefit of the Tree (2b) – *The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

What is it that this reveals to us? The Lord has promised *no tears, no death, no sorrow, or pain. The former things are passed away.* This is not a contradiction of Scripture; it speaks of the abundance of life that we shall enjoy. The leaves of the tree of life will make our eternal life more enjoyable. This reveals to us the quality of life that we shall enjoy in the heavenly city. Never again will we experience any type of ailment or pain.

- Do you remember reading about the Garden of Eden? As Adam and Eve enjoyed its bounty, there was only one thing that God had forbidden; they were not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord said nothing about the tree of life in the midst of the garden. Aren't you glad that they were cast out of the garden before they had eaten of the tree of life and lived forever in a sinful state? In heaven we will live forever free of sin.

I. A Flowing River of Life (1)

II. A Flourishing Tree of Life (2)

III. A Flawless Day of Life (3-5) – These verses are filled with the promise of life. Death is something that we all must face. *Heb.9:27 – And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:* We can't begin to imagine one eternal day with God in heaven. It will be a day free of anything that would hinder or bring despair. The day of life in heaven will be perfect as God intended man to live. Let's take a moment to consider the environment of that eternal day of life. Notice:

A. The Absence of the Curse (3a) – [And there shall be no more curse](#): The curse of sin will be no more. We will not experience the devastation that sin has brought to all of creation.

- There is nothing in this life that isn't affected by sin. Notice in [Gen.3:16-19](#) what sin caused in the life of mankind. This isn't all. Adam and Eve had children and their firstborn Cain killed his brother Abel. Adam lived and toiled in a sin cursed world and soon felt the deep pain that sin causes.
- We too live in such an environment. There isn't a one of us here tonight whose life hasn't been touched in some way or another by sin. Many live lives of deepest despair because of the curse of sin and the consequences it brings. Praise God in heaven the curse will be gone. All that brings heartache and misery to us down here will not be found in heaven.

B. The Presence of the Lord (3b-4) – [but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: \[4\] And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads](#). This is mentioned often in regard to heaven. [Rev.21:3 – And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God](#). The presence of our Lord will make heaven heaven.

- It may not mean much to this world, but it sure does something for me. I look forward to the day that I get to look upon the One who gave Himself that I might be saved. We will be in the Lord's presence never to depart.
- We will serve the Lord throughout eternity. I don't know exactly what all that will involve, but I have no doubt it will be wonderful. For the child of God there is nothing sweeter or more rewarding than being able to serve the Lord.
- In heaven we will serve Him as never before. We will be free of a body of flesh, that is prone to sin, and serve Him in light of complete righteousness. We won't spend that eternal day sitting around in a mansion or laying around on a fluffy white cloud; we will serve the Lord. Can you imagine the glorious city of God filled with all of God's people serving Him in unison?
- [The name of our Lord will be in our foreheads](#). Now I can't explain exactly what that verse means in its fullness, but I do know this much, Jesus will be our King and Lord and we will be His people. We will be identified as belonging to the Lord. Those who rejected the Lord during the Tribulation were marked with the mark of the beast and the people of God will bear the blessed name of Jesus. Praise God that I belong to Him! I am not ashamed to be identified with my Lord. In heaven we will bear His likeness and His name for one eternal day!

C. The Magnificence of Eternity (5) – [And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.](#) This is likely the hardest thing for us to grasp about heaven; it will never end. We shall be there forever, and ever, and ever, and ever!

- Darkness will never invade that land. We will never need a candle or light switch in heaven. The glorious brightness of Christ will fill the heavenly city.
- Can you begin to imagine eternity? Billions and trillions of years are just a moment in an eternal economy. I can't imagine it, but I know that it will be magnificent to say the least. We will never tire of worshipping and serving our Lord. The joy of the Lord will fill our hearts and we will bask in His glory never to leave His presence! Unspeakable joy will be ours throughout eternity. I don't know about you, but I am excited about what waits the children of God.

These verses have described the home of the redeemed. If you are saved, you will be counted in that number. We will all spend an eternal day of life as we've never known. The life that we live here is brief, but that day will never end.

I trust you are ready to go should the Lord call today. Heaven will be a wonderful place beyond our ability to comprehend, but just as wonderful as heaven will be, so will be the suffering of an eternal hell. Heaven is a place of abundant life and hell is a place of endless death.

Eternity is a long time and all who have ever lived will spend it in one of two places. Which will it be for you? You have the opportunity to enjoy heaven if you will only trust Christ as the Savior of your soul!